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Limit on Tax Hikes Proposed by Official



RED TAG DAYS—Claudia Smith gives Del Nadeau, president of the Downtown Merchants Association, some help in tacking up the first poster advising residents that Friday and Saturday will feature a huge Red Tag Days Sale. Businessmen will offer unusual bargain sales and advise that many Christmas gifts can be bought at huge savings during the sale.

Engineer Restores World War I Jenny, to Take Flying Lessons

A Torrance engineer has a special purpose in taking flying lessons to qualify as a pilot by next summer. That's the time R. T. Hood expects to have his World War I Curtis "Jenny" in flying shape. Hood and his partner in the project, Al Kiefer of Pasadena, have been working on the restoration of the ancient craft for about a year in Hood's backyard at 4705 W. 191st St. "I've always been interested in World War I aviation, and have built airplane models since I was five years old," says Hood, an electrical engineer with Northrop Aircraft.

After many a wild goose chase, he and Kiefer located the Curtis JN 4-D open cockpit two seater in a shed in Madera, Calif.

Rats' Nests
The partners paid the owners \$500 for the fuselage which had been in the shed since 1938. "The fuselage was intact but full of rats' nests," Hood said. He and Kiefer had earlier found another jenny which they were about to restore, but the one they located in Madera was in much better shape. "We were able to use about 90 per cent of the original wooden parts," he said. After they brought the aircraft to Torrance, they disassembled it systematically and cleaned up all the parts. Then, using original drawings they obtained from the company, they began the year-long task of assembling the fuselage.

Overhaul Engine
Presently Hood, 36, World War II veteran of a crash boat crew in the Aleutians, is busy overhauling the engine. The wing-span of the Jenny is 44 feet and the fuselage is 24 feet long. It was used as a trainer during the first World War and after that was used by barnstormers in stunt flying. With the exception of metal fittings, it is almost all wood, covered by fabric. It has only four instruments, an altimeter, tachometer, oil pressure gauge and air speed indicator, but no compass.

In Flying Shape
Hood says he believes the Jenny will be in perfect flying shape by May or June next year. In the meantime he intends to take flying lessons so he can look forward to piloting the craft from Torrance Municipal Airport. "My partner is already taking lessons. I guess we'll have to flip a coin to see who will fly it on the first trip up," he said. But then he had a second thought. "Perhaps we'll let a World War I pilot take it for a spin the first time." But that will not be the end of Hood's hobby. He's already looking around for another World War I aircraft to restore.

Drale Seeks Limit On Property Levy

Huge tax increases facing a number of Torrance home owners, this week prompted Councilman Nicholas O. Drale to seek legislation limiting tax hikes to not more than 25 per cent in any one year. He said that City Clerk A. H. Bartlett received more than 100 calls Tuesday from property owners protesting their tax bills.

Drale said that taxes on homes south of the Del Amo Shopping Center were increased 300 per cent. "I venture to say that taxes have increased 35 to 50 per cent in Torrance over last year," the councilman said.

He sent a letter to Assemblyman Vincent Thomas and Charles Edward Chapel seeking legislation which will prevent tax hikes of more than 25 per cent in any year, and that would allow the property owners to spread the payment over a five-year period.

Borrow Money
"Some people will have to borrow money to pay their increased tax bills," Drale charged. He said that assessed valuation increases near the Del Amo Shopping Center should not have been that high because the owners of residences will receive no greater value from living in their homes. Drale added that while the market price of homes has increased, most people don't want to move somewhere else.

Drale pointed out that most people don't know what their taxes will be at the time the Board of Supervisors sits at an appeal board during the first week of July.

Huge Hikes
In his letter, the councilman wrote: "As you know, some of the people have had their taxes increased by as much as 300 per cent in one year. "People who are on a fixed income, or those who have leased their properties for a definite period of time for stated amounts, can not recover the increase placed upon their property by the increase in taxes."

Drainage Bonds to Aid City

Some \$3,000,000 for flood relief projects will be provided in Torrance from Proposition "N", approved in Tuesday's election. This city will receive the amount is its pro rata share of the \$235,000,000 bond issue submitted as a countywide measure. The funds will go to projects in Welteria, Hollywood Riviera and in the downtown section, city officials said.

Other results of the election swept Congressman Cecil R. King, Democrat, back into office for his ninth term.

King defeated his opponent, Leonard Di Michel, San Pedro attorney, 179,128 to 58,816.

Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, who won the nominations of both parties in the Primary election, received a confidence vote of 65,255, from the 68th District, which includes most of Torrance.

In the Hollywood Riviera, incumbent Assemblyman Charles Edward Chapel, Republican, was returned to office in the 46th district by defeating Mrs. Iris Crochet, Inglewood councilwoman, 51,712 to 38,709.

Law to Control Poisonous Castor Beans Sought by Mothers in Petition Drive

A petition drive to request the City Council to pass a law which would control and regulate the extremely dangerous castor plant beans, was planned this week by a group of mothers. Mrs. Virginia Caley, of 22207 Linda Dr., said she and neighbors will ask the city to place some restrictions on the growth of these plants, which recently claimed the life of a Pontana toddler, and almost proved fatal to a Torrance youngster.



TITLE WINNER—Diana Cook, a senior, was elected Homecoming Queen by Torrance High School students from 15 finalists. Runner-up who will serve as princess are Diane Hunter, Diane Wayt, Betty Baker and Carol Surber. (Press Photo)

"If we can't get an ordinance to prohibit them, perhaps the City Council can control or regulate these plants," said Mrs. Caley.

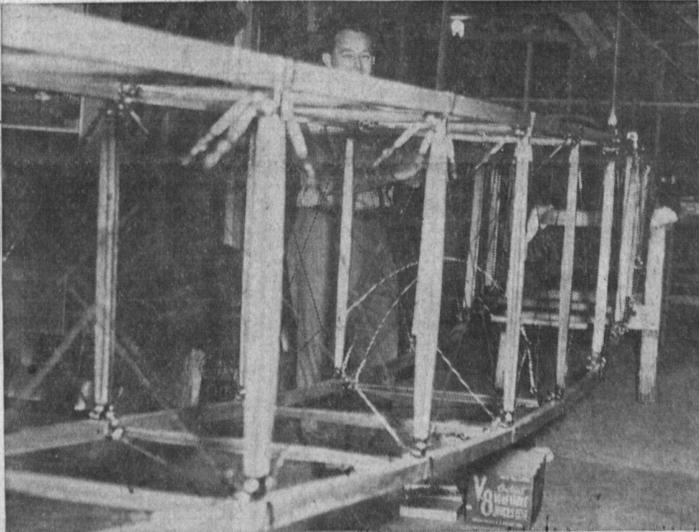
Danger Cited
The danger of the beans, if chewed was pointed out in Thursday's article in the Torrance Press, in which Mrs. Vera M. Kiesler, of 3633 W. 180th Pl., urged that parents not let their children come in contact with the beans.

Mrs. Caley said that she and other mothers in her neighborhood, successfully petitioned the City Council for better safeguards for private swimming pools, and that she hopes petitions will also bring some type of legislation to control castor bean plants.

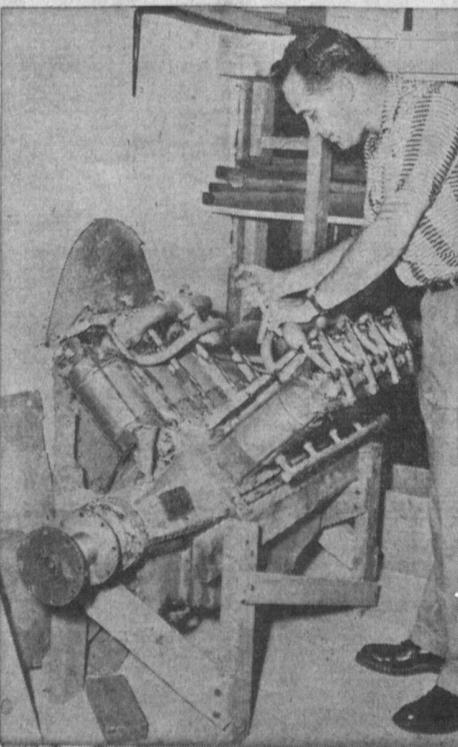
Health officials have warned that the beans are nearly always fatal if chewed, and that there is no known antidote. The poison from the bean affects the circulatory system, Dr. B. A. Kogan, Torrance health officer said.

Ornamental
The plants have beautiful clusters of leaves which make them quite popular as ornamental plants. They also grow as weeds in vacant lots. Mrs. Kiesler said that while the plants might not be too objectionable in a fenced yard, they should certainly be controlled so that they are not easily accessible to children. Officials in City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier's office said that if the City Council requests it, he will study what laws can be enacted to regulate these plants.

Riddle Sentenced
William E. Riddle, Torrance refrigerator mechanic, was sentenced to a 1 to 10 year prison term for the slaying of his estranged wife last year in Los Angeles. The former resident of 3533 W. 228th place was found guilty of a manslaughter charge on the basis of his preliminary hearing transcript.



RESTORATION WORK—R. T. Hood is working on fuselage of his World War I Curtis Jenny, which he is restoring to flight condition. He expects to have it ready for take-off next May or June. Below, Hood inspects the tires and works on the engine of the aircraft. The Torrance engineer says he intends to restore other pioneer airplanes. (Press Photo)



Girl, 5, Freed From Barrel by Rescue Squad

A youngster spent 25 terrified minutes while she was wedged inside a metal barrel Thursday.

Liana Luce, 5, of 3209 W. 178th St., was playing with the small oil barrel when she became stuck inside, her legs drawn up.

Torrance firemen who were summoned by her mother when she failed to free her daughter, managed to liberate her by snipping the barrel with bolt cutters.

Another Wednesday Meet Torrance City Council will meet on Wednesday instead of Tuesday for the third straight week, because Veterans Day is a governmental holiday.

Reject Grid Bid

The Board of Education has given a negative answer to a proposal that a football carnival be held as a means of financing Torrance's float in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

Dr. Albert N. Posner, said that the district has had a policy in effect since 1949 which discourages post season athletic events, and that the C.I.F. permits these usually only for the purpose of pupil welfare.



League Reshuffle Sought

Santa Monica High School this week found itself about as popular as the corner cop at a marijuana party.

None of the football teams in the area want to play against the power house of the Bay League.

This week the Torrance Board of Education joined those of other districts in asking officials to eliminate Santa Monica from the league.

In asking action from the Board, Dr. J. H. Hull, district superintendent, pointed out that Santa Monica, due to its huge enrollment, selects its grid squad from approximately 1300 boys, while Torrance high school must make its choice from only about 400.

Dr. Hull indicated that it may be possible that the only way the C.I.F. can be forced to exclude Santa Monica from the Bay League is to have all other schools in the league refuse to play the Bay City powerhouse.

He reported that the board of education of Inglewood, Centinela Valley and South Bay have taken action indicating that they will not play Santa Monica.

House Rented Quickly Through Press Want Ad

More than a dozen calls were received by J. A. Goss, of 625 W. Ocean Ave., when he advertised his two-bedroom house for rent in the Torrance Press classified columns. The house, located near Sepulveda Blvd., found a new tenant right away, and Goss is still amazed at the fast results he received.

When you have something to rent, buy or sell, call a courteous ad-taker at the Torrance Press FA 8-2345 and let her help you get fast results.